Reduction in water-supply by Bhakra Beas Management Board

2086. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhakra Beas Management Board has announced reduction in water supply share for Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab, with Rajasthan being the worst hit State till next Monsoon and whether Rajasthan will be left with water hardly sufficient only for drinking;

(b) the normal and reduced shares of each State and the reasons and rationale or calculation of the reduced quota indicating the reduction in water level in Bhakra and Pong Dams which have necessitated the cut in water supply; and

(c) what steps, are being taken to augment the water supply especially that to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) As per the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), the maximum levels attained at Pong and Bhakra Dams were 50 feet (*i.e.* 15.24 metre) and 22 feet (i.e. 6.71 metre) less than their maximum permissible levels which have resulted in the water availability during the period from 21.9.2002 to 20.5.2003 being 12.73% less than last year. Considering the storage and dry year pattern of inflows during this period, the BBMB decided the shares of partner States proportionately. Share of each State has been worked out on the basis of fixed percentages as decided under various inter-State agreements and meetings of BBMB with reference to the water availability. As reported by Rajasthan, reduced shares of the partner States and, the normal shares of the States are as below:—

State	Normal share		Reduced share for use during current depletion period	
	From rivers Ravi Beas (in MAF*)	From river Sutlej (in MAF*)	From rivers Ravi Beas (in MAF*)	From river Sutlej (in MAF*)
Punjab	4.22**	8.05	2.457	2.754
Haryana	3.50	4.30	0.997	1.717
Rajasthan	8.60**	1.44	2.936	0.302 (via Punjab) 0.178 (via Haryana)

* MAF=Million Acre Feet

** Subject to Clause (ii) of the agreement dated 31.12.1981 among the chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

According to BBMB, Rajasthan is likely to get about 7,050 Cs. (Cubic feet per second) of water on an average during the current depletion period whereas the normal drinking water requirement of the State is approximately 2,400 Cs. to 3,000 Cs.

(c) The releases are reviewed in the monthly meetings of the Technical Committee of the BBMB, in which Rajasthan is represented.

Experts-study on Ganga-Cauvery Link Project

2087. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times various study groups of experts have studied the Ganga-Cauvery Link Project with decisions taken on their reports;

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has again brought up this project to the fore and has requested Government to take this project to solve the problem of drought and floods in various parts of the country; and

(c) what is Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) The Ganga-Cauvery Link Project as proposed by Dr. K. L. Rao was examined by the Central Water Commission and found to be grossly under-estimated besides requiring large block of power for lifting water and being devoid of flood control benefits. The proposal was, therefore, not pursued further.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in 1980 which envisages inter linkages among Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transferring water from water surplus basins to water deficit areas for optimum utilisation for water resources. Under the Peninsular Component, interlinking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery and Vaigai and under Himalayan Component linking of tributaries of Brahamputra with Ganga at Farakka and Mahanadi is envisaged. The Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and other studies and prepare feasibility reports. NWDA has identified 30 links under the National